OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) The estimates of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) are compiled using basic data available from different sources. The sources of data include agricultural output based on the area statistics, productivity and prices provided by the State government, industrial and services statistics from Annual Survey of Industries and Enterprise Surveys, conducted specifically to collect these data, annual reports and budget documents of public sector undertakings and government departments. The data collection methods have remained more or less unchanged. Over the years deficiencies have crept in. Moreover, data about the same head collected from different sources have come to show considerable discrepancies.

(c) and (d) The Government has established a National Stastistical Commission on 19.1.2000 headed by Dr. C. Rangarajan to critically examine the deficiencies of the present statistical system with a view to recommending measures for a systematic revamping of the system, so as to improve the availability and quality of basic statistics. There is also a proposal for modernising the Indian Statistical System with possible external assistance.

Increase in Poverty in Rural Areas

†128. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the poverty has been increased in the rural regions of the country more than 3.42 per cent during the first seven years of the current decade;

(b) if not, what are the Government's estimates in this regard; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) what are the targets which were laid down by Government for poverty abolition during this period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) The Planning Commission estimates the percentage of persons living below the poverty line at national and state level from the large sample surveys on consumer expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) at an interval of approximatley five years. The last such survey was conducted in 1993-94. The next large survey on consumer expenditure is being conducted during the period, July 1999 to June, 2000. Since during the first seven years of the current decade, the estimates of percentage of people living below the poverty line are available only for the year 1993-94, it is not possible to ascertain its change during the period. However, comparing two latest estimates, 1987-88 and 1993-94, it is observed that the percentage of people living below the poverty line declined by 1.8 percentage point in rural areas.

(c) No specific targets of poverty reduction have been set.

Removal of Regional imblances in NER

129. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the position of North-Eastern Region districts with regard to removal of regional imbalances compared to other States: and

(b) the effective measures being taken or proposed to be taken by Government to remove regional imbalances during the Ninth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF